

207

SWAFFHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

REPORT

For the year ending December 31st, 1913,

BY THE

Medical Officer of Health.

Area in Acres	74,556
Population (Census, 1911)...	7,571
Density of Population, 1 person to 9·8 acres.	

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report on the Sanitary State of the District for the year 1913.

(A).—SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

This is a purely agricultural district, there being no towns or manufactories. The population tends to diminish slightly.

(B).—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY. The water supply of the district is entirely from wells, mostly shallow, and hence very liable to pollution, when situated, as frequently happens, too close to privies or other sources of contamination. I have made chemical analysis of 9 samples of water and found 5 unfit for use. Three new wells have been sunk and others cleaned and repaired.

**RIVERS AND
STREAMS.**

There is not much pollution of streams and no action has been necessary.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

**CLOSET
ACCOMMODATION.** There is no drainage worthy of the name. The usual method of sewage disposal is by discharge into open ditches, and into cesspools which are not sufficiently often cleaned out, and are a source of danger to the well water. The old insanitary privy vaults, leaky and in bad repair, are still in existence but many improvements continue to be effected by replacing some by the pail system and repairing others.

**SANITARY
INSPECTION.** The Inspector of Nuisances makes regular inspections throughout the district. Few complaints of nuisances are made but many have been detected and abated. A summary of the sanitary work effected with details of the various premises visited will be found at the end of the report. Two cases of Anthrax were reported at Palgrave and dealt with, every precaution to prevent spread of the disease being taken.

SCHOOLS. The sanitary condition and water supply of Schools were fully dealt with in a previous report and are satisfactory. A complaint as to the water supply at East Bradenham School was received. I analysed a sample of the water and found it unfit for use. The well was opened and found in a bad condition: it has now been thoroughly cleaned out and repaired and a satisfactory water supply assured. The well at Ashill has also been cleaned and repaired. The children are periodically examined by the School Medical Inspector. The action taken to prevent the spread of infectious disease is by means of notification by Teachers to the School and District Medical Officers, of all cases of illness among the children, when suspicious cases are further investigated. The School Medical Officer authorizes the exclusion of infected children and of "contacts." Several schools have been closed for short periods: there has been no epidemic of infectious disease.

FOOD. Under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order of 1885, all the premises have been regularly inspected and are in a satisfactory condition: there are 52 on the register. Several cases of Tuberculosis in cattle have been discovered and dealt with. No action has been necessary on account of unsound food.

HOUSING. The systematic inspection of working class houses has been continued. The parishes to which chief attention has been given are East Bradenham, West Bradenham, Foulden, Necton and North Pickenham. In accordance with the provisions of Art. V of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, I give the results in tabular form:—

Number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Act of 1909 245

Number of dwelling-houses which, on inspection, were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 3

Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders 3

Number of Closing Orders made 3

Number of dwelling-houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders... .. 198

Number of dwelling-houses, which, after the making of Closing Orders, were put into a fit state for human habitation 0

The general character of defects found to exist:—dampness, leaky roofs, insufficient light and ventilation, defective sanitary accommodation. Three closing orders were made. Notices have been served on the owners of those cottages which were found to be in a dilapidated condition but not much in the way of repairs has been effected. In many cottages there is insufficient bed-room accommodation. Three cases of overcrowding were found, and abated. The village of Foulden requires further housing accommodation. An enquiry into the housing conditions was asked for by the Parish Council and held by your Council: it was found that there was a demand for more houses for the working classes. Accordingly a report was sent to the Local Government Board who recommended that a scheme be prepared for building six new Cottages, recognising that such scheme would involve a deficiency to be met out of the rates for a time. The further action taken in the matter belongs properly to a future report.

Following on the communication from the Local Government Board received in September, 1912, advising the building of cottages at Great Cressingham, Holme Hale and North Pickenham, your Council appointed a Committee to carry out the recommendations of the Board. Accordingly a suitable site has been selected and purchased in each of these three villages, tenders for the erection of the cottages accepted, and loans for the whole scheme applied for and granted. The details relating to each parish are as follows:—

Parish.	Amount of Loan sanctioned.		Area of Land acquired.	Weekly Rental inclusive of Rates.	Estimated Nett Receipts.	Estimated Expenditure including Loan Charges.	Deficiency	Equivalent to Rate of
	Land	Buildings						
	£	£	ACRES.	s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	d.
GT. CRESSINGHAM	123	957	2	2 10½	44 0 0	56 10 0	12 10 0	2¼
HOLME HALE ...	116	981	3	3 1	46 15 0	56 14 0	9 19 0	1¼
N. PICKENHAM ...	53	959	1·8	2 10½	44 0 0	54 7 0	10 7 0	3

In each parish six cottages are to be erected and finished by the end of August in this year: each cottage is to consist of a large living room, three good bed-rooms and scullery.

Eight new cottages were built during the year.

The housing problem has not presented any insuperable difficulty to your Council, and the careful, businesslike way in which it has been considered, and the building scheme prepared, is worthy the notice of procrastinating Councils in other districts.

WORKSHOPS. The Factories and Workshops Act has been administered throughout the district. There are no factories: 39 workshops, including bake houses, are under supervision: only in one instance were insanitary conditions found which were remedied.

(C).—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The regular routine of the sanitary work has been interrupted to some extent by the change of the Inspector of Nuisances. Mr. W. E. Johns, A.R.S.I., has been appointed Inspector of Nuisances in place of Mr. Compton, resigned, and took up his duties in October.

The Joint (Urban and Rural) Isolation Hospital at Swaffham is available for the treatment of Smallpox. There is no isolation hospital in the district for the treatment of other infectious diseases. I have before made the suggestion that the Smallpox Hospital, not required, happily, for that purpose of recent years, might be utilized as a General Isolation Hospital. Your Council provide facilities for the free bacteriological examination of suspected material, both as an aid to diagnosis and to prevent the spread of infectious disease: not much use, however, is made of these advantages.

(D).—Prevalence of and Control over Acute Infectious Diseases.

NOTIFIABLE.

There were only eight cases, other than those of Tuberculosis, notified, viz:—four of Scarlet Fever, two of Enteric Fever, and one each of Diphtheria and Puerperal Fever.

SCARLET FEVER. These four cases all occurred in one family at Hilborough during September. The origin of the outbreak was not traced. The infected children were isolated in an empty house with a person in charge of them. Every precaution was taken to prevent the spread of the disease and no further cases resulted.

ENTERIC FEVER. The two cases of this disease were imported into the district. Two children, visitors, both developed the disease the day after their arrival at Saham Toney. I visited the house, and every precaution was taken; a Nurse was in attendance, and both children recovered. No other case resulted. I endeavoured to trace the source of infection but without success. I corresponded with the Medical Officers of Health of Ilkley, Spalding and Bury St. Edmunds, in each of which places there was a possibility that the disease had been contracted, but no case had been notified for some time past in either of them.

DIPHTHERIA. There was one notification. This case occurred at Narford, in January, in the same house, where, in December of the previous year, a child had developed the disease. I also received a notification in August, that a person was suffering from "Symptoms of Diphtheria coming on after Influenza." I visited the house on the same day and found the patient dead. I had some correspondence on the matter and was informed that the communication was not intended as a notification of Diphtheria. There has not been much Diphtheria in the district for some years past. The most certain method of preventing an epidemic, such as the disastrous experience at Necton six years ago, is by taking a "swab" whenever a suspicious case is seen and having a bacteriological examination made to ascertain the true nature of the disease.

PUERPERAL FEVER. One case, at Houghton Common, was notified.

NON-NOTIFIABLE.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

These diseases, so frequently lightly considered and neglected, have not been unduly prevalent. There were no deaths from either.

CANCER.

The number of deaths due to Cancer, in some form, was 13: of these, six occurred in persons between the ages of 47 and 57: six were over 64, and one was 31. Eight were females and 5 males. Of the parts of the body, the stomach was most frequently attacked, in 5 cases: the Intestines in 3.

(E).—Prevalence and Control over Tuberculosis.

There were five notifications of Pulmonary and two of other forms of Tuberculosis. Visits are made on receipt of notification, housing conditions investigated, pamphlets giving instructions and precautions to be observed are distributed, and disinfectants supplied. In every case after a death disinfection of the room is undertaken. Under the National Health Insurance Act, the County Committee undertake the treatment of insured persons, and also of "dependents" of the insured, by providing domiciliary or Sanatorium treatment.

There were 8 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one from Tuberculosis of the knee-joint.

On the low estimate that there are three cases of Tuberculosis to every death from the disease, it is very evident that there are a large number of notifications yet to be made.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were 14 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an infant mortality rate of 88 per 1000 births registered. This is a higher rate than we have had in this district for 5 years past with the exception of 1911, a year of unusually hot weather. Eight infants died before they were 4 weeks old, 5 from premature birth and debility, and 3 from Bronchitis and Pneumonia which also caused the death of 2 infants a few months older, making 5 in all. One child, 11 months old, died of pulmonary Tuberculosis. The cause of death of two infants was registered as "unknown," a remarkable fact.

The Notification of Births' Act has not been adopted.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS. There were 159 births registered belonging to the district, giving a birth-rate of 21 per 1000 of population which is about the average rate in this district for some years past, happily not showing the decline obvious in other parts of the country.

DEATHS. There were 84 deaths registered in the district, to which have to be added those of 12 "Residents" who died outside the district, making 96 in all; this gives a death-rate of 12.6 per 1000 of population, a decrease on last year. The chief causes of death were Heart disease 19, Cancer 13, Tuberculosis 9, Bronchitis 8. The death of one man, age 29 years, was certified as due to 'Dentition, Convulsions,' and ten had to be placed under the heading of "Diseases ill-defined or unknown." The number of those over the age of 65 was 46, nearly half the total number. There was one death caused by accident.

I append the Statistical Tables.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. F. ROSE.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years.

SWAFFHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non- residents registered in the District.	of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	7644	171	...	22	103	13·4	...	...	20	116·9	...	...
1909	...	161	...	21	89	11·6	...	...	10	62	...	...
1910	...	155	...	20	96	12·5	...	8	11	71	104	13·5
1911	7571	167	...	22	85	11·2	...	11	19	113·7	96	12·6
1912	...	159	159	21	103	13·5	...	12	10	62·8	115	15
1913	7571	158	159	21	84	11·2	...	12	14	88	96	12·6

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) } 74,556.

Total population at all ages—7,571.

Number of inhabited houses—1,886.

Average number of persons per house—4.

} At Census of 1911.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1913.

SWAFFHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	4	...	2	2	...	...	...	...
Typhus fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Relapsing fever (Continued fever)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	1	...	1	...	3	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Totals	15	1	2	6	...	6	...	...

Isolation Hospital—Joint (Urban and Rural) Smallpox, at Swaffham. Total available beds—9.
Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated—Smallpox only.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1913.

SWAFFHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	
All causes { Certified Uncertified ... ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
1—Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2—Smallpox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3—Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4—Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5—Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6—Diphtheria and Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7—Influenza	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
8—Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9—Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	8	1	..	..	1	..	5	..	..	..
10—Tuberculous Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11—Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
12—Cancer, malignant disease	13	..	..	..	..	..	2	6	5	..
13—Rheumatic Fever	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
14—Meningitis	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15—Organic Heart Disease	19	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	15	..
16—Bronchitis	8	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	4	..
17—Pneumonia (all forms)	5	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
18—Other diseases of Respiratory organs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
19—Diarrhoea and Enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20—Appendicitis and Typhlitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
21—Cirrhosis of Liver	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
21a—Alcoholism	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
22—Nephritis and Bright's Disease	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..
23—Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
24—Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy } and Parturition	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25—Congenital Debility and Malformation, } including Premature Birth	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
26—Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
27—Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
28—Other Defined Diseases	18	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	12	..
29—Diseases ill-defined or unknown	10	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	6	..
	96	14	2	..	2	1	11	20	46	..

TABLE IV.

SWAFFHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

INFANT MORTALITY.

1913. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 Year of Age.

Cause of Death.					Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes { Certified					..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Uncertified					..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Smallpox					..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Chickenpox					..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Measles					..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Scarlet fever					..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Whooping Cough					..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Diphtheria and Croup					..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Erysipelas					..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Tuberculous Meningitis					..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis					..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases					..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1
{ Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)					..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
{ Convulsions					..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Laryngitis					..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	2
{ Bronchitis					..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	2
{ Pneumonia (all forms)					..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	1	3
{ Diarrhoea					..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Enteritis					..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Gastritis					..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Syphilis					..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Rickets					..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Suffocation, overlying					..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Injury at birth					..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Atelectasis					1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
{ Congenital Malformations					..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Premature birth					3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	3
{ Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus					1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
{ Other causes					..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Unknown					..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2
					5	..	..	3	8	..	2	2	2	14
Nett Births in the year—legitimate 159. Nett Deaths in the year of legitimate infants 14.														

TABLE V.

SWAFFHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

Phthisis:—Sanatorium and Hospital Accommodation? None.
Have the Council or any private Body provided a Dispensary? No.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1913,

FOR THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF SWAFFHAM,

ON THE

Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,

IN CONNECTION WITH

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

I.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	34	2	
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)			
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)			
Total	34	2	

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—*				
Want of cleanliness	2	2		
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient				
{ unsuitable or defective				
{ not separate for sexes				
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ...				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)				
Other offences				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report)				
Total	2	2		

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
Bakehouses	13
Other Workshops	21
Total number of Workshops on Register	34

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
<i>Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:—</i>	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)	
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Work- shop Acts (s. 5, 1901).	Notified by H.M. Inspector. Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector
Other	
<i>Underground Bakehouses (s. 101):—</i>	
Certificates granted during the year	
In use at the end of the year	

ABSTRACT OF SANITARY WORK.

For the Year 1913.

Complaints received ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cottages inspected ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	257
Nuisances detected ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	172
Over-crowding ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Slaughter Houses inspected ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Knacker's Premises inspected...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cowsheds and Dairies inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Workshops inspected ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Wells Cleaned and Repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Samples of Water Analysed ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Houses Disinfected ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Privies Repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Privies converted ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

**SWAFFHAM
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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—❧ REPORT ❧—

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health,
For the Year 1913.**

E. F. ROSE,
M.O.H.

W. J. COE, PRINTER, SWAFFHAM.